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2024 Legislature

1  
 2 An act relating to school safety; amending s. 30.15,  
 3 F.S.; providing that private schools are responsible  
 4 for specified costs relating to school guardian  
 5 programs; authorizing sheriffs to waive specified  
 6 costs for private schools; prohibiting specified funds  
 7 from being used to subsidize certain costs;  
 8 authorizing certain persons to be certified as school  
 9 guardians without completing certain training  
 10 requirements; revising specified training requirements  
 11 for school guardians; requiring school districts,  
 12 charter schools, private schools, and sheriffs to  
 13 report specified information relating to school  
 14 guardians and school guardian programs to the  
 15 Department of Law Enforcement within specified  
 16 timeframes; requiring the Department of Law  
 17 Enforcement to maintain a list of school guardians and  
 18 school guardian trainings; providing for the removal  
 19 of specified persons from such list; providing  
 20 requirements for such list; prohibiting sheriffs who  
 21 fail to report specified information from receiving  
 22 certain reimbursement; prohibiting school districts,  
 23 charter schools, and private schools that fail to  
 24 report specified information from operating school  
 25 guardian programs for the following school year,

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1473, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

26 | unless the school district, charter school, or private  
27 | school has submitted the required information;  
28 | requiring the Department of Law Enforcement to report  
29 | certain information to the Department of Education by  
30 | specified dates of each school year; authorizing the  
31 | Department of Law Enforcement to adopt rules; amending  
32 | 330.41, F.S.; prohibiting the operation of a drone  
33 | over public and private schools and the recording of  
34 | video of such schools; providing criminal penalties;  
35 | providing exemptions; amending s. 943.082, F.S.;  
36 | requiring district school boards and charter school  
37 | governing boards to ensure specified instruction  
38 | relating to the mobile suspicious activity reporting  
39 | tool be provided to students within a specified  
40 | timeframe; providing requirements for such  
41 | instruction; amending s. 985.04, F.S.; requiring the  
42 | superintendent of schools, or his or her designee, to  
43 | notify specified chiefs of police or public safety  
44 | directors of certain postsecondary institutions of  
45 | specified alleged acts by children dual enrolled at  
46 | such institutions within a specified timeframe;  
47 | amending s. 1001.212, F.S.; requiring the Office of  
48 | Safe Schools to develop and adopt a specified report  
49 | relating to compliance and noncompliance with school  
50 | safety requirements by a specified date; requiring the

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1473, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

51 office to provide such report to specified persons;  
 52 requiring the office to conduct specified inspections  
 53 triennially and investigate certain noncompliance;  
 54 providing requirements for the provision of specified  
 55 information from such inspections and investigations;  
 56 requiring the office to provide certain quarterly  
 57 reports to specified persons; requiring the office to  
 58 provide bonuses to certain persons who comply with  
 59 specified requirements; requiring the office to refer  
 60 certain personnel to specified persons; requiring the  
 61 office to notify specified personnel electronically of  
 62 certain requirements; requiring the office to evaluate  
 63 the methodology for the safe schools allocation and,  
 64 if necessary, recommend an alternative methodology for  
 65 specified purposes by a specified date; amending s.  
 66 1006.07, F.S.; requiring schools, including charter  
 67 schools, to maintain a specified record relating to  
 68 certain drills; providing that school safety  
 69 specialist duties may be completed by his or her  
 70 designee; providing that certain school safety  
 71 specialist duties are in conjunction with the district  
 72 school superintendent; requiring school safety  
 73 specialists to conduct specified annual inspections,  
 74 investigate specified reports of noncompliance, and  
 75 report certain noncompliance and violations to

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1473, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

76 | specified individuals and the district school board;  
 77 | requiring school districts and charter school  
 78 | governing boards to comply with certain school safety  
 79 | requirements by a specified date; providing reporting  
 80 | requirements for violations of certain school safety  
 81 | requirements; requiring district school boards and  
 82 | charter school governing boards to adopt a progressive  
 83 | discipline policy for specified personnel who commit  
 84 | specified violations; amending s. 1006.12, F.S.;  
 85 | requiring specified agreements relating to school  
 86 | resource officers to identify the entity responsible  
 87 | for maintaining specified records; providing  
 88 | requirements before the appointment of a school  
 89 | guardian; requiring the Department of Education to  
 90 | provide certain information to the Department of Law  
 91 | Enforcement; repealing specified training requirements  
 92 | for safe-school officers; subject to legislative  
 93 | appropriation, requiring the Department of Law  
 94 | Enforcement to provide grants to sheriffs' offices and  
 95 | law enforcement agencies for specified purposes  
 96 | relating to school safety in private schools;  
 97 | providing requirements for such grants; requiring the  
 98 | Department of Law Enforcement to develop a specified  
 99 | form and provide such form to grant recipients;  
 100 | providing requirements for the use of such funds;

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1473, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

101 providing a limit on the amount of funds an applicant  
 102 may receive; providing an effective date.  
 103

104 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
 105

106 Section 1. Paragraph (k) of subsection (1) of section  
 107 30.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

108 30.15 Powers, duties, and obligations.—

109 (1) Sheriffs, in their respective counties, in person or  
 110 by deputy, shall:

111 (k) Assist district school boards and charter school  
 112 governing boards in complying with, or private schools in  
 113 exercising options in, s. 1006.12. A sheriff must, at a minimum,  
 114 provide access to a Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach  
 115 Scott Beigel Guardian Program to aid in the prevention or  
 116 abatement of active assailant incidents on school premises, as  
 117 required under this paragraph. Persons certified as school  
 118 guardians pursuant to this paragraph have no authority to act in  
 119 any law enforcement capacity except to the extent necessary to  
 120 prevent or abate an active assailant incident.

121 1.a. If a local school board has voted by a majority to  
 122 implement a guardian program, the sheriff in that county shall  
 123 establish a guardian program to provide training, pursuant to  
 124 subparagraph 2., to school district, charter school, or private  
 125 school employees, either directly or through a contract with

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1473, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

126 another sheriff's office that has established a guardian  
127 program.

128       b. A charter school governing board in a school district  
129 that has not voted, or has declined, to implement a guardian  
130 program may request the sheriff in the county to establish a  
131 guardian program for the purpose of training the charter school  
132 employees. If the county sheriff denies the request, the charter  
133 school governing board may contract with a sheriff that has  
134 established a guardian program to provide such training. The  
135 charter school governing board must notify the superintendent  
136 and the sheriff in the charter school's county of the contract  
137 prior to its execution.

138       c. A private school in a school district that has not  
139 voted, or has declined, to implement a guardian program may  
140 request that the sheriff in the county of the private school  
141 establish a guardian program for the purpose of training private  
142 school employees. If the county sheriff denies the request, the  
143 private school may contract with a sheriff from another county  
144 who has established a guardian program to provide such training.  
145 The private school must notify the sheriff in the private  
146 school's county of the contract with a sheriff from another  
147 county before its execution. The private school is responsible  
148 for all training and screening-related costs for a school  
149 guardian program. The sheriff providing such training must  
150 ensure that any moneys paid by a private school are not

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1473, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

151 commingled with any funds provided by the state to the sheriff  
 152 as reimbursement for screening-related and training-related  
 153 costs of any school district or charter school employee.

154 d. The training program required in sub-subparagraph 2.b.  
 155 is a standardized statewide curriculum, and each sheriff  
 156 providing such training shall adhere to the course of  
 157 instruction specified in that sub-subparagraph. This  
 158 subparagraph does not prohibit a sheriff from providing  
 159 additional training. A school guardian who has completed the  
 160 training program required in sub-subparagraph 2.b. may not be  
 161 required to attend another sheriff's training program pursuant  
 162 to that sub-subparagraph unless there has been at least a 1-year  
 163 break in his or her appointment ~~employment~~ as a guardian.

164 e. The sheriff conducting the training pursuant to  
 165 subparagraph 2. for school district and charter school employees  
 166 will be reimbursed for screening-related and training-related  
 167 costs and for providing a one-time stipend of \$500 to each  
 168 school guardian who participates in the school guardian program.

169 f. The sheriff may waive the training and screening-  
 170 related costs for a private school for a school guardian  
 171 program. Funds provided pursuant to sub-subparagraph e. may not  
 172 be used to subsidize any costs that have been waived by the  
 173 sheriff.

174 g. A person who is certified and in good standing under  
 175 the Florida Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission,

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1473, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

176 who meets the qualifications established in s. 943.13, and who  
177 is otherwise qualified for the position of a school guardian may  
178 be certified as a school guardian by the sheriff without  
179 completing the training requirements of sub-subparagraph 2.b.  
180 However, a person certified as a school guardian under this sub-  
181 subparagraph must meet the requirements of sub-subparagraphs  
182 2.c.-e.

183 2. A sheriff who establishes a program shall consult with  
184 the Department of Law Enforcement on programmatic guiding  
185 principles, practices, and resources, and shall certify as  
186 school guardians, without the power of arrest, school employees,  
187 as specified in s. 1006.12(3), who:

188 a. Hold a valid license issued under s. 790.06.

189 b. Complete a 144-hour training program, consisting of 12  
190 hours of training to improve the school guardian's knowledge and  
191 skills necessary to respond to and de-escalate incidents on  
192 school premises ~~certified nationally recognized diversity~~  
193 ~~training~~ and 132 total hours of comprehensive firearm safety and  
194 proficiency training conducted by Criminal Justice Standards and  
195 Training Commission-certified instructors, which must include:

196 (I) Eighty hours of firearms instruction based on the  
197 Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission's Law  
198 Enforcement Academy training model, which must include at least  
199 10 percent but no more than 20 percent more rounds fired than  
200 associated with academy training. Program participants must



ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1473, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

201 | achieve an 85 percent pass rate on the firearms training.  
 202 |       (II) Sixteen hours of instruction in precision pistol.  
 203 |       (III) Eight hours of discretionary shooting instruction  
 204 | using state-of-the-art simulator exercises.  
 205 |       (IV) Sixteen hours of instruction in active shooter or  
 206 | assailant scenarios.  
 207 |       (V) Eight hours of instruction in defensive tactics.  
 208 |       (VI) Four hours of instruction in legal issues.  
 209 |       c. Pass a psychological evaluation administered by a  
 210 | psychologist licensed under chapter 490 and designated by the  
 211 | Department of Law Enforcement and submit the results of the  
 212 | evaluation to the sheriff's office. The Department of Law  
 213 | Enforcement is authorized to provide the sheriff's office with  
 214 | mental health and substance abuse data for compliance with this  
 215 | paragraph.  
 216 |       d. Submit to and pass an initial drug test and subsequent  
 217 | random drug tests in accordance with the requirements of s.  
 218 | 112.0455 and the sheriff's office.  
 219 |       e. Successfully complete ongoing training, weapon  
 220 | inspection, and firearm qualification on at least an annual  
 221 | basis.  
 222 |  
 223 | The sheriff who conducts the guardian training or waives the  
 224 | training requirements for a person under sub-subparagraph 1.g.  
 225 | shall issue a school guardian certificate to persons ~~individuals~~

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1473, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

226 | who meet the requirements of this section to the satisfaction of  
227 | the sheriff, and shall maintain documentation of weapon and  
228 | equipment inspections, as well as the training, certification,  
229 | inspection, and qualification records of each school guardian  
230 | certified by the sheriff. A person ~~An individual~~ who is  
231 | certified under this paragraph may serve as a school guardian  
232 | under s. 1006.12(3) only if he or she is appointed by the  
233 | applicable school district superintendent, charter school  
234 | principal, or private school head of school.

235 |       3.a.(I) Within 30 days after issuing a school guardian  
236 | certificate, the sheriff who issued the certificate must report  
237 | to the Department of Law Enforcement the name, date of birth,  
238 | and certification date of the school guardian.

239 |       (II) By September 1, 2024, each sheriff who issued a  
240 | school guardian certificate must report to the Department of Law  
241 | Enforcement the name, date of birth, and certification date of  
242 | each school guardian who received a certificate from the  
243 | sheriff.

244 |       b.(I) By February 1 and September 1 of each school year,  
245 | each school district, charter school, and private school must  
246 | report to the Department of Law Enforcement the name, date of  
247 | birth, and appointment date of each person appointed as a school  
248 | guardian. The school district, charter school, and private  
249 | school must also report to the Department of Law Enforcement the  
250 | date each school guardian separates from his or her appointment

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1473, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

251 as a school guardian.

252 (II) By September 1, 2024, each school district, charter  
253 school, and private school must report to the Department of Law  
254 Enforcement the name, date of birth, and initial and end-of-  
255 appointment dates, as applicable, of each person appointed as a  
256 school guardian.

257 c. The Department of Law Enforcement shall maintain a list  
258 of each person appointed as a school guardian in the state. The  
259 list must include the name and certification date of each school  
260 guardian and the date the person was appointed as a school  
261 guardian, including the name of the school district, charter  
262 school, or private school in which the school guardian is  
263 appointed, any information provided pursuant to s. 1006.12(5),  
264 and, if applicable, the date such person separated from his or  
265 her appointment as a school guardian. The Department of Law  
266 Enforcement shall remove from the list any person whose training  
267 has expired pursuant to sub-subparagraph 1.d.

268 d. Each sheriff must report on a quarterly basis to the  
269 Department of Law Enforcement the schedule for upcoming school  
270 guardian trainings, including the dates of the training, the  
271 training locations, a contact person to register for the  
272 training, and the class capacity. The Department of Law  
273 Enforcement shall publish on its website a list of the upcoming  
274 school guardian trainings. The Department of Law Enforcement  
275 must update such list quarterly.

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1473, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

276 e. A sheriff who fails to report the information required  
277 by this subparagraph may not receive reimbursement from the  
278 Department of Education for school guardian trainings. Upon the  
279 submission of the required information, a sheriff is deemed  
280 eligible for such funding and is authorized to continue to  
281 receive reimbursement for school guardian training.

282 f. A school district, charter school, or private school  
283 that fails to report the information required by this  
284 subparagraph may not operate a school guardian program for the  
285 following school year, unless the school district, charter  
286 school, or private school has submitted the required  
287 information.

288 g. By March 1 and October 1 of each school year, the  
289 Department of Law Enforcement shall notify the Department of  
290 Education of any sheriff, school district, charter school, or  
291 private school that has not complied with the reporting  
292 requirements of this subparagraph.

293 h. The Department of Law Enforcement may adopt rules to  
294 implement the requirements of this subparagraph, including  
295 requiring additional reporting information only as necessary to  
296 uniquely identify each school guardian reported.

297 Section 2. Subsection (5) of section 330.41, Florida  
298 Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (6), and a new subsection  
299 (5) is added to that section to read:

300 330.41 Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act.—

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1473, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

301       (5) PROTECTION OF SCHOOLS.—  
 302       (a) A person may not knowingly or willfully:  
 303       1. Operate a drone over a public or private school serving  
 304 students in any grade from voluntary prekindergarten through  
 305 grade 12; or  
 306       2. Allow a drone to make contact with a school, including  
 307 any person or object on the premises of or within the school  
 308 facility.  
 309       (b) A person who violates paragraph (a) commits a  
 310 misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s.  
 311 775.082 or s. 775.083. A person who commits a second or  
 312 subsequent violation commits a misdemeanor of the first degree,  
 313 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.  
 314       (c) A person who violates paragraph (a) and records video  
 315 of the school, including any person or object on the premises of  
 316 or within the school facility, commits a misdemeanor of the  
 317 first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.  
 318 775.083. A person who commits a second or subsequent violation  
 319 commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in  
 320 s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.  
 321       (d) This subsection does not apply to actions identified  
 322 in paragraph (a) which are committed by:  
 323       1. A person acting under the prior written consent of the  
 324 school principal, district school board, superintendent, or  
 325 school governing board.

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1473, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

326           2. A law enforcement agency that is in compliance with s.  
 327 934.50 or a person under contract with or otherwise acting under  
 328 the direction of such law enforcement agency.

329           Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section  
 330 943.082, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

331           943.082 School Safety Awareness Program.—

332           (4)

333           (b) The district school board shall promote the use of the  
 334 mobile suspicious activity reporting tool by advertising it on  
 335 the school district website, in newsletters, on school campuses,  
 336 and in school publications, by installing it on all mobile  
 337 devices issued to students, and by bookmarking the website on  
 338 all computer devices issued to students. Within the first 5 days  
 339 of each school year, each district school board and charter  
 340 school governing board must ensure that instruction on the use  
 341 of the mobile suspicious activity reporting tool known as  
 342 FortifyFL is provided to students. The instruction must be age  
 343 and developmentally appropriate and include the consequences for  
 344 making a threat or false report as described in ss. 790.162 and  
 345 790.163, respectively, involving school or school personnel's  
 346 property, school transportation, or a school-sponsored activity.

347           Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section  
 348 985.04, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

349           985.04 Oaths; records; confidential information.—

350           (4) (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1473, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

351 section, when a child of any age is taken into custody by a law  
 352 enforcement officer for an offense that would have been a felony  
 353 if committed by an adult, or a crime of violence, the law  
 354 enforcement agency must notify the superintendent of schools  
 355 that the child is alleged to have committed the delinquent act.  
 356 If the child is a dual enrolled student at a postsecondary  
 357 institution, the superintendent of schools, or his or her  
 358 designee, must notify the chief of police or the public safety  
 359 director of the postsecondary institution at which the student  
 360 is dual enrolled within 1 business day after receiving the  
 361 initial notification.

362 Section 5. Subsection (14) of section 1001.212, Florida  
 363 Statutes, is amended, and subsections (17) and (18) are added to  
 364 that section, to read:

365 1001.212 Office of Safe Schools.—There is created in the  
 366 Department of Education the Office of Safe Schools. The office  
 367 is fully accountable to the Commissioner of Education. The  
 368 office shall serve as a central repository for best practices,  
 369 training standards, and compliance oversight in all matters  
 370 regarding school safety and security, including prevention  
 371 efforts, intervention efforts, and emergency preparedness  
 372 planning. The office shall:

373 (14) (a) By August 1, 2024, develop and adopt a Florida  
 374 school safety compliance inspection report to document  
 375 compliance or noncompliance with school safety requirements

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1473, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

376 mandated by law or rule and adherence to established school  
 377 safety best practices to evaluate the safety, security, and  
 378 emergency response of the school. Upon the adoption of the  
 379 report and upon any revisions to the report, the office shall  
 380 provide a blank copy of the report to each district school  
 381 superintendent and charter school administrator.

382 (b) Monitor compliance with requirements relating to  
 383 school safety by school districts and public schools, including  
 384 charter schools. The office shall conduct unannounced  
 385 inspections of all public schools, including charter schools,  
 386 while school is in session, triennially and investigate reports  
 387 of noncompliance with school safety requirements. Within 3  
 388 school days after the unannounced inspection, the office shall  
 389 provide a copy of the completed Florida school safety compliance  
 390 inspection report, including any photographs or other evidence  
 391 of noncompliance, to the school safety specialist, the school  
 392 principal or charter school administrator, as appropriate, and  
 393 the district school superintendent. The school safety specialist  
 394 or charter school administrator shall acknowledge receipt of the  
 395 report in writing within 1 school day after receipt. The office  
 396 shall reinspect any school with documented deficiencies within 6  
 397 months. The school safety specialist or charter school  
 398 administrator, or his or her designee, must provide the office  
 399 with written notice of how the noncompliance with s.  
 400 1006.07(6)(f) has been remediated within 3 school days after



ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1473, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

401 receipt of the report.

402 (c) Provide quarterly reports to each district school  
403 superintendent and school safety specialist identifying the  
404 number and percentage of schools, including charter schools,  
405 inspected or reinspected during that quarter and the number and  
406 percentage of inspected schools that had no school safety  
407 requirement deficiencies. The school safety specialist shall  
408 present each quarterly report to the district school board in a  
409 public meeting. Annually, during the first quarter of every  
410 school year, the school safety specialist shall report to the  
411 district school board in a public meeting the number of schools  
412 inspected during the preceding calendar year and the number and  
413 percentage of schools in compliance during the initial  
414 inspection and reinspection.

415 (d) Provide a bonus in an amount determined in the General  
416 Appropriations Act, at the conclusion of the initial unannounced  
417 inspection conducted during the triennial period, to the school  
418 principal or charter school administrator of each school that  
419 complies with all school safety requirements.

420 (e) Refer any instructional personnel as defined in s.  
421 1012.01(2) and any administrative personnel as defined in s.  
422 1012.01(3) who knowingly violate s. 1006.07(6)(f) to the  
423 district school superintendent or charter school administrator,  
424 as applicable, for disciplinary action if such action has not  
425 already been commenced by the district school superintendent or

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1473, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

426 charter school administrator upon receipt of the Florida school  
 427 safety compliance inspection report. The district school  
 428 superintendent or charter school administrator must notify the  
 429 office of the outcome of the disciplinary proceedings within 3  
 430 school days after the conclusion of the proceedings.

431 (17) Annually, at the beginning of the school year, notify  
 432 all administrative and instructional personnel by electronic  
 433 mail of the requirements of s. 1006.07(6)(f).

434 (18) By December 1, 2024, evaluate the methodology for the  
 435 safe schools allocation in s. 1011.62(12) and, if necessary,  
 436 make recommendations for an alternate methodology to distribute  
 437 the remaining balance of the safe schools allocation as  
 438 indicated in s. 1011.62(12) ~~report incidents of noncompliance to~~  
 439 ~~the commissioner pursuant to s. 1001.11(9) and the state board~~  
 440 ~~pursuant to s. 1008.32 and other requirements of law, as~~  
 441 appropriate.

442 Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) and paragraph  
 443 (a) of subsection (6) of section 1006.07, Florida Statutes, are  
 444 amended, and paragraph (f) is added to subsection (6) of that  
 445 section, to read:

446 1006.07 District school board duties relating to student  
 447 discipline and school safety.—The district school board shall  
 448 provide for the proper accounting for all students, for the  
 449 attendance and control of students at school, and for proper  
 450 attention to health, safety, and other matters relating to the

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1473, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

451 welfare of students, including:

452 (4) EMERGENCY DRILLS; EMERGENCY PROCEDURES.—

453 (a) Formulate and prescribe policies and procedures, in  
 454 consultation with the appropriate public safety agencies, for  
 455 emergency drills and for actual emergencies, including, but not  
 456 limited to, fires, natural disasters, active assailant and  
 457 hostage situations, and bomb threats, for all students and  
 458 faculty at all public schools of the district composed of grades  
 459 K-12, pursuant to State Board of Education rules. Drills for  
 460 active assailant and hostage situations must be conducted in  
 461 accordance with developmentally appropriate and age-appropriate  
 462 procedures, as specified in State Board of Education rules. Law  
 463 enforcement officers responsible for responding to the school in  
 464 the event of an active assailant emergency, as determined  
 465 necessary by the sheriff in coordination with the district's  
 466 school safety specialist, must be physically present on campus  
 467 and directly involved in the execution of active assailant  
 468 emergency drills. School districts must notify law enforcement  
 469 officers at least 24 hours before conducting an active assailant  
 470 emergency drill at which such law enforcement officers are  
 471 expected to attend. Each school, including charter schools, must  
 472 maintain a record that is accessible on each campus or by  
 473 request of the Office of Safe Schools of all current school year  
 474 and prior school year drills conducted pursuant to this  
 475 subsection, including the names of law enforcement personnel

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1473, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

476 present on campus for each active assailant emergency drill.  
477 District school board policies must include commonly used alarm  
478 system responses for specific types of emergencies and  
479 verification by each school that drills have been provided as  
480 required by law, State Board of Education rules, and fire  
481 protection codes and may provide accommodations for drills  
482 conducted by exceptional student education centers. District  
483 school boards shall establish emergency response and emergency  
484 preparedness policies and procedures that include, but are not  
485 limited to, identifying the individuals responsible for  
486 contacting the primary emergency response agency and the  
487 emergency response agency responsible for notifying the school  
488 district for each type of emergency. The State Board of  
489 Education shall refer to recommendations provided in reports  
490 published pursuant to s. 943.687 for guidance and, by August 1,  
491 2023, consult with state and local constituencies to adopt rules  
492 applicable to the requirements of this subsection which, at a  
493 minimum, define the terms "emergency drill," "active threat,"  
494 and "after-action report" and establish minimum emergency drill  
495 policies and procedures related to the timing, frequency,  
496 participation, training, notification, accommodations, and  
497 responses to threat situations by incident type, school level,  
498 school type, and student and school characteristics. The rules  
499 must require all types of emergency drills to be conducted no  
500 less frequently than on an annual school year basis.

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1473, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

501 (6) SAFETY AND SECURITY BEST PRACTICES.—Each district  
 502 school superintendent shall establish policies and procedures  
 503 for the prevention of violence on school grounds, including the  
 504 assessment of and intervention with individuals whose behavior  
 505 poses a threat to the safety of the school community.

506 (a) School safety specialist.—Each district school  
 507 superintendent shall designate a school safety specialist for  
 508 the district. The school safety specialist must be a school  
 509 administrator employed by the school district or a law  
 510 enforcement officer employed by the sheriff's office located in  
 511 the school district. Any school safety specialist designated  
 512 from the sheriff's office must first be authorized and approved  
 513 by the sheriff employing the law enforcement officer. Any school  
 514 safety specialist designated from the sheriff's office remains  
 515 the employee of the office for purposes of compensation,  
 516 insurance, workers' compensation, and other benefits authorized  
 517 by law for a law enforcement officer employed by the sheriff's  
 518 office. The sheriff and the school superintendent may determine  
 519 by agreement the reimbursement for such costs, or may share the  
 520 costs, associated with employment of the law enforcement officer  
 521 as a school safety specialist. The school safety specialist must  
 522 earn a certificate of completion of the school safety specialist  
 523 training provided by the Office of Safe Schools within 1 year  
 524 after appointment and is responsible for the supervision and  
 525 oversight for all school safety and security personnel,

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1473, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

526 | policies, and procedures in the school district. The school  
527 | safety specialist, or his or her designee, shall:

528 | 1. In conjunction with the district school superintendent,  
529 | annually review school district policies and procedures for  
530 | compliance with state law and rules, including the district's  
531 | timely and accurate submission of school environmental safety  
532 | incident reports to the department pursuant to s. 1001.212(8).  
533 | At least quarterly, the school safety specialist must report to  
534 | the district school superintendent and the district school board  
535 | any noncompliance by the school district with laws or rules  
536 | regarding school safety.

537 | 2. Provide the necessary training and resources to  
538 | students and school district staff in matters relating to youth  
539 | mental health awareness and assistance; emergency procedures,  
540 | including active shooter training; and school safety and  
541 | security.

542 | 3. Serve as the school district liaison with local public  
543 | safety agencies and national, state, and community agencies and  
544 | organizations in matters of school safety and security.

545 | 4. In collaboration with the appropriate public safety  
546 | agencies, as that term is defined in s. 365.171, by October 1 of  
547 | each year, conduct a school security risk assessment at each  
548 | public school using the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool  
549 | developed by the Office of Safe Schools pursuant to s.  
550 | 1006.1493. Based on the assessment findings, the district's

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1473, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

551 school safety specialist shall provide recommendations to the  
 552 district school superintendent and the district school board  
 553 which identify strategies and activities that the district  
 554 school board should implement in order to address the findings  
 555 and improve school safety and security. Each district school  
 556 board must receive such findings and the school safety  
 557 specialist's recommendations at a publicly noticed district  
 558 school board meeting to provide the public an opportunity to  
 559 hear the district school board members discuss and take action  
 560 on the findings and recommendations. Each school safety  
 561 specialist, through the district school superintendent, shall  
 562 report such findings and school board action to the Office of  
 563 Safe Schools within 30 days after the district school board  
 564 meeting.

565 5. Conduct annual unannounced inspections, using the form  
 566 adopted by the Office of Safe Schools pursuant to s.  
 567 1001.212(14), of all public schools, including charter schools,  
 568 while school is in session and investigate reports of  
 569 noncompliance with school safety requirements.

570 6. Report violations of paragraph (f) by administrative  
 571 personnel and instructional personnel to the district school  
 572 superintendent or charter school administrator, as applicable.

573 (f) School safety requirements.-

574 1. By August 1, 2024, each school district and charter  
 575 school governing board shall comply with the following school

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1473, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

576 safety requirements:

577 a. All gates or other access points that restrict ingress  
578 to or egress from a school campus shall remain closed and locked  
579 when students are on campus. A gate or other campus access point  
580 may not be open or unlocked, regardless of whether it is during  
581 normal school hours, unless:

582 (I) Attended or actively staffed by a person when students  
583 are on campus;

584 (II) The use is in accordance with a shared use agreement  
585 pursuant to s. 1013.101; or

586 (III) The school safety specialist, or his or her  
587 designee, has documented in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment  
588 Tool portal maintained by the Office of Safe Schools that the  
589 gate or other access point is not subject to this requirement  
590 based upon other safety measures at the school. The office may  
591 conduct a compliance visit pursuant to s. 1001.212(14) to review  
592 if such determination is appropriate.

593 b. All school classrooms and other instructional spaces  
594 must be locked to prevent ingress when occupied by students,  
595 except between class periods when students are moving between  
596 classrooms or other instructional spaces. If a classroom or  
597 other instructional space door must be left unlocked or open for  
598 any reason other than between class periods when students are  
599 moving between classrooms or other instructional spaces, the  
600 door must be actively staffed by a person standing or seated at



ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1473, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

601 the door.

602 c. All campus access doors, gates, and other access points  
603 that allow ingress to or egress from a school building shall  
604 remain closed and locked at all times to prevent ingress, unless  
605 a person is actively entering or exiting the door, gate, or  
606 other access point or the school safety specialist, or his or  
607 her designee, has documented in the Florida Safe Schools  
608 Assessment Tool portal maintained by the Office of Safe Schools  
609 that the open and unlocked door, gate, or other access point is  
610 not subject to this requirement based upon other safety measures  
611 at the school. The office may conduct a compliance visit  
612 pursuant to s. 1001.212(14) to review if such determination is  
613 appropriate. All campus access doors, gates, and other access  
614 points may be electronically or manually controlled by school  
615 personnel to allow access by authorized visitors, students, and  
616 school personnel.

617 d. All school classrooms and other instructional spaces  
618 must clearly and conspicuously mark the safest areas in each  
619 classroom or other instructional space where students must  
620 shelter in place during an emergency. Students must be notified  
621 of these safe areas within the first 10 days of the school year.  
622 If it is not feasible to clearly and conspicuously mark the  
623 safest areas in a classroom or other instructional space, the  
624 school safety specialist, or his or her designee, must document  
625 such determination in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1473, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

626 portal maintained by the Office of Safe Schools, identifying  
627 where affected students must shelter in place. The office shall  
628 assist the school safety specialist with compliance during the  
629 inspection required under s. 1001.212(14).

630

631 Persons who are aware of a violation of this paragraph must  
632 report the violation to the school principal. The school  
633 principal must report the violation to the school safety  
634 specialist no later than the next business day after receiving  
635 such report. If the person who violated this paragraph is the  
636 school principal or charter school administrator, the report  
637 must be made directly to the district school superintendent or  
638 charter school governing board, as applicable.

639 (g) Progressive discipline policy.—Each district school  
640 board and charter school governing board shall adopt a  
641 progressive discipline policy for addressing any instructional  
642 personnel as defined in s. 1012.01(2) and any administrative  
643 personnel as defined in s. 1012.01(3) who knowingly violate  
644 school safety requirements.

645 Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and subsections  
646 (3) and (6) of section 1006.12, Florida Statutes, are amended to  
647 read:

648 1006.12 Safe-school officers at each public school.—For  
649 the protection and safety of school personnel, property,  
650 students, and visitors, each district school board and school

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1473, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

651 district superintendent shall partner with law enforcement  
652 agencies or security agencies to establish or assign one or more  
653 safe-school officers at each school facility within the  
654 district, including charter schools. A district school board  
655 must collaborate with charter school governing boards to  
656 facilitate charter school access to all safe-school officer  
657 options available under this section. The school district may  
658 implement any combination of the options in subsections (1)-(4)  
659 to best meet the needs of the school district and charter  
660 schools.

661 (1) SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER.—A school district may  
662 establish school resource officer programs through a cooperative  
663 agreement with law enforcement agencies.

664 (b) School resource officers shall abide by district  
665 school board policies and shall consult with and coordinate  
666 activities through the school principal, but shall be  
667 responsible to the law enforcement agency in all matters  
668 relating to employment, subject to agreements between a district  
669 school board and a law enforcement agency. The agreements shall  
670 identify the entity responsible for maintaining records relating  
671 to training. Activities conducted by the school resource officer  
672 which are part of the regular instructional program of the  
673 school shall be under the direction of the school principal.

674 (3) SCHOOL GUARDIAN.—

675 (a) At the school district's or the charter school

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1473, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

676 governing board's discretion, as applicable, pursuant to s.  
 677 30.15, a school district or charter school governing board may  
 678 participate in the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach  
 679 Scott Beigel Guardian Program to meet the requirement of  
 680 establishing a safe-school officer. The following individuals  
 681 may serve as a school guardian, in support of school-sanctioned  
 682 activities for purposes of s. 790.115, upon satisfactory  
 683 completion of the requirements under s. 30.15(1)(k) and  
 684 certification by a sheriff:

685 1.(a) A school district employee or personnel, as defined  
 686 under s. 1012.01, or a charter school employee, as provided  
 687 under s. 1002.33(12)(a), who volunteers to serve as a school  
 688 guardian in addition to his or her official job duties; or

689 2.(b) An employee of a school district or a charter school  
 690 who is hired for the specific purpose of serving as a school  
 691 guardian.

692 (b) Before appointing an individual as a school guardian,  
 693 the school district or charter school shall contact the  
 694 Department of Law Enforcement and review all information  
 695 maintained under s. 30.15(1)(k)3.c. related to the individual.

696 (c) The department shall provide to the Department of Law  
 697 Enforcement any information relating to a school guardian  
 698 received pursuant to subsection (5).

699 (6) CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING.—

700 ~~(a)~~ Each safe-school officer who is also a sworn law

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1473, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

701 enforcement officer shall complete mental health crisis  
702 intervention training using a curriculum developed by a national  
703 organization with expertise in mental health crisis  
704 intervention. The training must improve the officer's knowledge  
705 and skills as a first responder to incidents involving students  
706 with emotional disturbance or mental illness, including de-  
707 escalation skills to ensure student and officer safety.

708 ~~(b) Each safe-school officer who is not a sworn law~~  
709 ~~enforcement officer shall receive training to improve the~~  
710 ~~officer's knowledge and skills necessary to respond to and de-~~  
711 ~~escalate incidents on school premises.~~

712

713 If a district school board, through its adopted policies,  
714 procedures, or actions, denies a charter school access to any  
715 safe-school officer options pursuant to this section, the school  
716 district must assign a school resource officer or school safety  
717 officer to the charter school. Under such circumstances, the  
718 charter school's share of the costs of the school resource  
719 officer or school safety officer may not exceed the safe school  
720 allocation funds provided to the charter school pursuant to s.  
721 1011.62(12) and shall be retained by the school district.

722 Section 8. For the 2024-2025 fiscal year and subject to  
723 legislative appropriation, the Department of Law Enforcement  
724 shall provide grants to sheriffs' offices and law enforcement  
725 agencies to conduct physical site security assessments for and

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1473, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

726 provide reports to private schools with recommendations on  
727 improving such schools' infrastructure safety and security; to  
728 assist private schools in developing active assailant response  
729 protocols and develop and implement training relating to active  
730 assailant responses, including active assailant response drills  
731 for students and school personnel; and to consult with or  
732 provide guidance to private schools in implementing a threat  
733 management program similar to the program required under s.  
734 1001.212(12), Florida Statutes, for public schools. The  
735 Department of Law Enforcement shall develop a site security  
736 assessment form for use by sheriffs' offices and law enforcement  
737 agencies and provide the form, including any subsequent  
738 revisions, to the recipient of funds in conducting the duties  
739 outlined in this section. Grants awarded under this section may  
740 be used to provide reimbursements for personnel costs, software,  
741 and other items necessary to assist private schools. The  
742 Department of Law Enforcement shall establish the requirements  
743 for awarding grants under this section. An applicant may not  
744 receive more than 10 percent of the total amount appropriated  
745 for the program.

746 Section 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.